

Hawks, A. McL.

1931

[San Diego, CA]



John Riley, Esq.  
#165, E. 71st St.  
New York:

#1415, Myrtle Ave., San Diego, Calif.  
19th Jan. 1931.

Dear Sir:

Your name has been given me (by my good neighbor and fellow Engineer J. R. Van Nagell, Esq.) as one interested in Oriental coins.

I am enclosing (photograph <sup>goes by regular mail</sup> and) description.

These coins were a "presentation" from the Emperor <sup>of Japan</sup> to the late Archibald F. Macnab in 1894 after he had served for 25 years as "Marine Inspecting Engineer to the <sup>Japanese</sup> Imperial Govt. They were "fresh from the Mint" - fastened on a velvet background - and enclosed in a lacquer box. They are still in that box - have never been handled - spent most of the time in safety vaults. On exhibition once, for two weeks, in a glass case in the Security Bank and Trust Co. of Los Angeles.

These are unique - unexcelled - and I doubt if their equals are to be found.

If you are not interested, can you give me the name of some Numismatist (not dealer) who might be a possible purchaser.

Mr. Van Nagell was a fellow-passenger with you coming West on the "Pres. Monroe" through the Canal. He has seen the coins and admires them greatly.

Yours very truly, A. M. L. Hawks.



Mr. John Riley  
#165 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York.

#1415 Myrtle Ave.  
San Diego, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1931.

Dear Sir:

On Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. I wrote to you about some Japanese coins: and sent you a photograph and a description of them - asking if you would be interested and would care to make an offer to purchase them.

Having no reply, I am asking if you will send me word (in enclosed, self-addressed, envelope) concerning receipt of above: and, if you are not interested, will you kindly hold the photograph and description until I can send someone to call for them.

You will greatly oblige,

Yours very truly

A. M. L. Hawks.

I just wrote a letter  
telling I had turned  
over to you  
Oscar



February 11, 1931

Mr. A. McL. Hawks  
1415 Myrtle Avenue  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

As you have probably already learned, Mr. Reilly to whom you sent photographs and a letter concerning some Japanese coins, passed away last week. Mrs. Reilly has informed me that she has just answered you, and has left with us at the above address, the photographs and description of the coins, as in your last letter you stated that you would have some one call for them.

I have examined the photograph, and although the pieces with their history and the way in which they are mounted, are most interesting, nevertheless the coins in themselves are not of great value, the large gold piece being by far the rarest and has a numismatic value of about \$75.00; the other pieces would bring from about fifty cents to five or ten dollars each. We have all of these pieces, and as there are almost no collectors of Japanese coins in this country, I am at a loss to direct you to anybody who would be interested to make you an offer.

The small token you enclosed and which is herewith returned to you, is known as a Civil War token. These were issued in 1863, to supply the lack of one-cent pieces; at the time the government was unable to make sufficient change for the needs of merchants. Your piece is worth just a few cents.

Very truly yours,

Curator.